	Peaking in MW (nef)
Demand	522
Met	520
Shortage	2
Percentage Shortage	0.4

(c) A capacity addition of 167.5 MW has been envisaged in Assam in the draft 9th Plan. In additon Assam will have share in the proposed Central Sector power stations for North-Eastern Region. Assam has also been allocated 14.5/119 MW in the peak/of-peak time respectively from the unallocated quota of NTPC stations of Eastern Region. 400 KV Double Ckt. Bongaigaon-Malda transmission line is under construction and the commissioning of this line would further strengthen the reliability of North-East Power System including Asssam.

Allocation of Funds for the Development of Ports

*238. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) the amount of Central assistance extended to different major ports during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the various development works undertaken in these ports during that plan period, port-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked for the development of ports in the Ninth Five Year Plan, port-wise; and

(d) the allocation made to various ports for 1998-99 for their development?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) During 8th Five Year Plan, central assistance of Rs. 233.16 crores was provided for the following projects in various major ports:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Port	Name of the Project
1.	Mumbai	Replacement of P-Orr Pau Oil Pier
2.		Replacement of Fire Float Sheetal
3.		Replacement of Lock Gate at Indira Dock
4.		Installation of Vessel Traffic Management System
5.		Modernisation of ship repair facilities
6.	Chennai	Construction of a new port at Ennore.
7.	Paradip	Mechanised coal handling facilities
8.	Calcutta	Comprehensive scheme for improvement of draft in Hooghly Esatuary Container handling facilities
9.	JI Nehru	Port development project (Phase-I) Construction of approach/bridge to service berth
10	Cochin	Container handling facilities
11.	Vizag	Conversion of Wharf Jetties 1 and 2 into full fledged general cargo berth
12.	Tuticorin	Construction of second coal jetty

(c) and (d) An outlay for Rs. 7215 crores has been approved in 9th Five year Plan and Rs. 726 crores in Annual Plan

1998-99 for development of major ports as per details given below:—

SI. No.	Name of the Port	9th Plan Outlay (Rs. in Crores)	1998-00 Outlay (Rs. in crores)
1.	Calcutta/Haldia	545	30.00
2.	Mimbai	980	110.00
3.	J L Nehru	500	70.50
4.	Chennai	1700	170.50
5.	Cochin	330	10.00
6.	Vizag	850	50.00
7.	Kandla	360	65.50
8.	Mormugao	260	15.00
9.	Paradip	900	120.00
10.	New Mangalore	340	30.00
11.	Tuticorin	450	55.00
	TOTAL	7215	726.00

लघु उद्योगों के लिए रियायतें

*239. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि उन्होने लघु उद्योगों को विदेशी कम्पनियों के आगमन और लघु क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित मदों के आयात से उत्पन्न स्थिति का सामना करने के लिए तैयार रहने की सलाह दी हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में लघु उद्योगों को कुछ प्रोत्साहन और रियायतें दी हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय (बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादमबूर एम.आर.जनार्दन) : (क) देश में प्रारम्भ किए गए उदारीकरण और आर्थिक सुधारों को देखते हुए, लघु उघोग (एस.एस.आई.) क्षेत्र के लिए यह आवश्यक हैं कि वे प्रतियोगी बने और स्वयं को उससे संबंधित चुनौतियों के लिए तैयार करें।

(ख) और (ग) प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र स्थिति, ऋण नीति पहल, उत्पाद-शुल्क रियायतें और उत्पाद आरक्षण कुछ ऐसे प्रोत्साहन हैं जो लघु उघोग क्षेत्र को उसके विकास और वृद्वि के लिए उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Interest Rate on corpus of Provident Fund Pension

*240. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Standing Labour Committee recommended payment of 12 per cent interest on the corpus of provident fund pension of Rs. 13,000 crores;

(b) if so, why Government continue paying only $8^{1/2}$ per cent interest while even the States securities pay an interest of $13^{1/2}$ per cent and;

(c) whether Government would immediately raise the interest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Over and above the 8Vi per cent interest, the Government of India contributes to the Employess Pension Scheme at the rate of 1.16% of the pay of the employees. Under the circumstances, it has not been found feasible to raise the interest rate on the deposits in the public account.